



Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

Part of The Romero Catholic Academy

MISUSE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR OTHER SUBSTANCES POLICY

Responsible for Policy:	Cardinal Wiseman Local Academy Committee
Date Approved:	08 April 2020
Cycle of Review:	2 years
Next Review Date:	April 2022

The school is named after Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman who became the first Cardinal upon the re-establishment of the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales in 1850. His coat of arms is displayed on every student's blazer. The motto is 'All things for Christ' therefore faith is at the heart of everything we do, as well as recognising that we are all made in the image of God.

- Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and the centrality of our mission as a Catholic school to create a caring community.
- Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School commits to educate students regarding all issues relating to drugs and alcohol, including their misuse and illegal supply.

Aims of the Drugs and Substances Education in Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School

- To help young people develop positive attitudes towards living healthy lives.
- To educate young people to the risks of substance misuse.
- To give young people the means to make informed choices.
- To give young people the skills to resist drug-taking.
- To help staff recognise and respond appropriately to substance-related incidents.

Context

Education can play a key role in ensuring that young people know the risks of drug-taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist.

The school works in partnership with parents, health and social services, the police, specialist drug prevention workers in delivering drugs education and responding to any substance-related incidents.

Although for the most part, the focus of this policy is on illegal drugs, it should also be used as a guideline for dealing with other substances such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

Organisations

At Key Stages 3 and 4, the DfE Guidance for PSHE states that pupils should know:

- the facts about legal and illegal drugs and their associated risks, including the link between drug use and serious mental health conditions
- the physical and psychological risks associated with alcohol
- consumption and what constitutes low risk alcohol consumption in adulthood
- the physical and psychological consequences of addiction including alcohol dependency.

Drugs and substance misuse is unlikely to have a lasting effect if taught in isolation or as a one-off lesson. It is important that a credible and consistent message is given by all staff within the school.

Content of Programmes

- Legal issues concerning drug misuse.
- The physiological and psychological effects of drugs.
- Implications for the individual, families and the wider community.
- Assertiveness and skills training to recognise and resist peer-pressure.
- Where to go for help (both in and out of school).
- A wide range of factual and educational resources is available and many of these are already in school. They are contained within relevant Key Stage PSHE programmes.
- Children with Special Educational Needs may need additional help in building self-esteem and confidence to resist pressure to experiment and in understanding what sort of behaviour is acceptable.

Dealing with Incidents (See: Practical Guidelines for Dealing with Drug Related Incidents at www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools)

- Teachers and support staff should be alert to those warning signs which may indicate that a student is misusing drugs.
- In the event that a student appears to be suffering from acute intoxication or physical collapse, staff should call for a first-aider and medical help should be sought. The Principal must always be notified of any drugs-related incident. Students under the influence of alcohol or drugs must be removed from the premises by their parents. A written report must be made of any incident and placed on file.
- If a student discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs the teacher should make clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. All teachers should be aware of their position on 'confidentiality':
 1. Staff must not make promises of absolute confidentiality and must inform the student of the possible need to involve others.
 2. If the disclosure involves immediate danger to the student or others confidentiality should not be maintained.
 3. If a student's disclosure is connected with a criminal offence, any promise of confidentiality is inadmissible in a court of law.
 4. However, open relationships are between students and teachers, and teachers and the Principal, one still has authority over the other.
- Where a student has been identified as being at risk because of experimentation with drugs, appropriate support and counselling will be given within the school's pastoral system. Support of parents and outside agencies will normally also be sought.
- Although there is no statutory requirement to do so, it would normally be expected that the school inform the police when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises.
- Students on prescribed medication should only bring to school the required dose to be taken during school hours.
- Staff are entitled to search a student's bag or locker where there is reasonable cause to believe it contains illegal items. Staff are entitled to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug. It should then be handed to the police. Cigarettes or alcohol should be confiscated and may be returned only to the parent(s) in person.
- Intimate physical searches should never be made by a teacher.

- Where substances open to abuse are legally held within school (eg duplication fluid, glues, aerosols, etc) they should be strictly controlled and stored in a secure cabinet with careful supervision of their use.
- Any instances of possession, use or supply of drugs on school premises, on school events, on any activities or on any journey to and from school will be regarded with the utmost seriousness. Where a student is considered to place the health and safety of other students at risk, this could lead up to and include a permanent exclusion. The final decision as to whether or not to permanently exclude a student rests with the Principal.